Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 23 Mar 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 24 Mar 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 22 Mar 2023 at 12:51

Confidence: High for generally unsettled and windy conditions through the next couple of days. Low confidence for details over the weekend, especially for the timings of colder weather extending southwards over the UK.

Headline for Thursday 23 Mar 2023: A windy day with sunny spells and showers.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 23 Mar 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sleet showers	Sleet showers	Light rain showers	Sleet showers	Sleet showers	Sleet showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
30%	10%	60%	60%	40%	40%	40%	40%

Forecast for Thursday 23 Mar 2023

Weather: Mainly dry with clear spells in the early hours. A mixture of sunny spells and occasional showers during the day, falling as sleet above 800m. Some of the showers could be heavy with a small chance of thunder. A few showers likely to continue into the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60%, best chance over eastern fells.

Low cloud and visibility: Mainly good visibility between showers. Patchy low cloud and fog, mostly above 700m and across western fells, but may briefly come down to 400m in showers.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 23 Mar 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	37/48 SW	34/44 SW	42/55 SW	37/48 SW	33/44 SW	33/45 SW	35/47 S	34/46 S	31/43 SW
600	32/44 SW	29/40 SW	34/49 S	31/44 SW	30/43 SW	28/41 SW	29/43 S	30/44 S	27/40 SW
300	14/35 SW	12/31 SW	14/37 S	14/34 SW	15/34 SW	14/33 SW	14/34 S	15/35 S	13/31 SW
Valley	15/33 SW	12/27 SW	15/35 S	17/35 SW	17/33 SW	15/31 S	15/32 S	16/32 S	16/31 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-7	-0/-8	1/-8	1/-7	2/-5	2/-5	2/-6	2/-6	1/-6
600	3/-4	2/-5	3/-4	3/-4	4/-2	4/-2	4/-2	4/-3	3/-3
300	5/1	4/0	5/1	5/1	6/3	7/3	6/2	6/2	5/1
Valley	7/4	7/3	7/4	8/4	9/5	9/6	9/5	8/5	8/4
Freezing Level*	1000m	900m	1100m	1100m	1100m	1200m	1200m	1200m	1200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Strong winds giving arduous walking conditions on the tops and feeling cold with a significant wind chill.

Forecast for Friday 24 Mar 2023

Weather: Clear spells overnight with showers dying out. A bright morning with brief showers, wintry above 800m. The showers likely to become heavy, thundery and more frequent in the afternoon, possibly merging into a longer spell of rain and summit sleet. Strong and gusty southwesterly winds.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 30 to 35mph with gusts 45 to 50mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60% becoming 30% in afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Patchy low cloud and fog, mostly above 600m and across western fells in the morning but becoming more persistent through the afternoon with patches down to 400m. Mainly good visibility away from cloud but poor at times in showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 6C rising to 9C.
At 800m: Plus 1C rising to 3C.
Freezing level: 900m at first but rising above summits by afternoon.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 22 March 2023. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:15. Full report: This report comes with a health warning in that, at the time of writing, there is a possibility that Wednesday night / Thursday morning's precipitation could be wintry above about 750m so walkers out above this height could, and should be prepared to, encounter different conditions to those experienced and described below. As far as walkers are concerned, the Lakeland fells are now clear of snow and ice as the remaining snow does not obstruct any paths. Insignificant, isolated patches of snow can be found in sheltered spots and hollows above 700m. The vast majority of snow, however, now lies above 900m at the top of steep non-south facing slopes, predominantly those facing east and as such represent no hazard to walkers. Indeed, paths were generally dry with good, grippy rock underfoot. (Apparently "grippy" is not a word – but it should be!!) The main hazard encountered today was one which will be familiar to regular fell walkers namely the strength of the gusty SW wind. There is now a significant contrast between the warmth of the sheltered valleys (which were plus 9 degrees C today) and the exposed high fells where the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) around midday was a chilly minus 9 degrees C (ie 18 degrees difference). Therefore, for those venturing on the high fells full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves) mountain boots and equipment - including a torch, map and compass and the ability to use them in potentially poor visibility – all remain essential both for safety and to be able to enjoy the experience. One of the showers that fell today consisted of hail, so walkers could consider adding goggles to their rucksack to lessen the sting of such windblown precipitation. Temperature: plus 1.3 C, Maximum wind speed 49.4 mph, Wind chill: minus 8.7 C, Average wind speed: 34.8 mph.

Issued at: 1251 on Wed 22 Mar 2023

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